

Magic

Magic as we see it today in stage tricks
& banquet entertainment: rabbit from
hat, sawing woman in half, paper into
handkerchief, etc.

Magic as it has existed in the past:

Black magic or white magic: spells,

curse, quart, like cures, like, amulets,

tokens, relics. contact separated, gods. Force

ensure crops, games, fertility.

future (cooling) attempt

All have one thing in common, to control

the supernatural. Perhaps for magician's

good, good of his patron (and thus

indirectly for his good). Often for evil,

& against individual, community or

nation. Sometimes for good. ~~But~~ ^{the} difference

is that these mechanical, ritualistic, ceremonies please

the supernatural powers & in return these powers

do the will of the magicians.

Religion - Much that is really just magic

is often called religion, or done in the

name of religion. Relics of medical

Coercion + power to relieve time in purgatory
show magic even in name of saintly. Likewise
snake dances, empedias on one church, baptism
or any other ritual are necessary to salvation.

What is religion - for definition of it
could help ~~to~~ distinguish its goals
and how to reach them. Goal of magic
to control the supernatural, and magic
is method by which this is sought.

Religion - the service or adoration of
God or a god as expressed in forms of
worship. An awareness or conviction of
the existence of a supreme being, arousing
reverence, love, gratitude, the will to obey
and serve.

Magic and religion are opposites, then,
= magic would put the supernatural
the Divine at service of ^{and under the control of} the person or group.
Religion puts the person and group at
the service of the supernatural, the Divine, God.
magic expresses selfishness, & rivalry, ~~envy~~

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Religions: ^(specifically) Hinduism, Mohammedanism, Judaism, and some forms of Xianity fail to free selves from dragging weight of magic.

Christianity at its best ~~overcomes its~~ ~~ignorance,~~ its focus ~~to the fact that it~~ recognizes that nothing man can do can force God ^{to perform,} control him, ~~and yet that God himself~~ ~~has~~ it believes God has given man evidence of God's concern for man, cares for man, and has provided a simple, natural, non-mysterious method for each individual to know God - Jesus. Through this knowledge of God man can know God's will and serve him.

Christian religion expresses itself as an everyday ~~presence~~ ~~awareness~~ awareness of the ever-present God, supernatural, divine, without fear and not seeking favor.

Christian worship at its best is not magic, for it recognizes God can't be controlled. Requests in prayer always ~~are~~ ~~in~~

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recognize God can't be controlled
I am after pattern of Jesus, "Thy
will be done." The Christian expects
God to work through ~~his~~ own methods,
which are natural, orderly, sensible
and understandable

magic and religion are antithesis (re-summation)
of all religions, Christianity has
least need of and sympathy for
magic.

yet, Caroslin finds that when he rejects
magic - selfishly seeking to control
God - and seeks to worship & serve
God, that he has served himself best.

So we jump to the ~~and~~ obvious
superiority of Christianity for the self
in trying to make it appeal and minimizing
that its ~~self~~ personal sacrifices
come only as we serve. Mt. 20:25-28

Christianity is not magic. It is
religion - one that has no need of magic.